GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) During the Indo-Pak meeting at Home Secretary level in May, 1988, both the countries agreed to take concrete measures to check drug trafficking, smuggling, illegal border crossings etc. along Indo-Pak border. These measures include regular joint action between the border security forces of both countries. They also agreed to regular exchange of information between the two countries, as well as to provide mutual assistance in criminal investigation in matters relating to drug trafficking and smuggling. No plan for joint action has been made so far. Meanwhile some interim measures such as holding of monthly meetings, flag meetings etc. have been agreed upon.

Setting up of a National Technology Mission to reclaim Wastelands

822. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Technology Mission for reclamation of wastelands;

(b) if so, how the mission will interact with the National Wastelands Development Board; and

(c) whether wetlands as distinct from wastelands would also be included in the Technology Mission and whether such wetlands in the country have been identified?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) The question whether a Technology Mission for the reclamation of the wastelands should be set up and if so, what should be its scope and coverage is under evtmination and a final decision thereon is yet to be taken.

Landless agricultural labourers covered by the Group Insurance Scheme

823. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of landless agricultural labourers in the country, State-wise and the number of those covered by the Group Insurance Scheme in each State as on 31st August, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): The number of landless agricultural labourers in the country covered by the Group Insurance Scheme operating from 15th August, 1987 is roughly estimated to be 3 crores. It is not possible to give correctly state-wise estimated figures.

Memorandum submitted to P.M. by Indian National Bank Officers' Congress

824. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that detailed memorandum has been submitted to the Prime Minister by the Indian National Bank Officers' Congress enlisting their grievances about the victimisation meted out to the office bearers of INTUC led Unions/Associations by the Managements of State Bank of India and nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government to stop such harassment and victimisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF